
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street Room 103
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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUMMER TROLL FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today that the first Chinook salmon opening of the general summer commercial troll season will begin at 12:01 a.m., July 1 and will close at 11:59 p.m., July 6. **The 6-day opening will target approximately 62,864 Chinook salmon. Based on assessment of CPUE's and effort levels, this opening length may be adjusted inseason, with an early closure or extension announced on short notice.**

Under provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the commercial troll Chinook salmon quota for the 2012-2013 accounting year (October 11, 2012 through September 30, 2013) is approximately 129,862 treaty fish (not including Alaska hatchery add-on). All treaty Chinook salmon harvested in the winter and spring troll fisheries are subtracted from the annual quota to determine the amount available for the summer season. The winter troll fishery harvested 22,597 treaty Chinook salmon, while the spring troll fishery harvest estimate is projected to be 15,455 treaty Chinook salmon.

The estimated number of treaty Chinook salmon remaining to be harvested is 87,111 fish and the initial summer troll opening will be managed to harvest 70% of that remainder (5 AAC 29.100). Therefore, the target harvest for the first opening will be approximately 60,978 treaty fish, plus an estimated 3% Alaska hatchery contribution which is not subject to treaty limits, for a total harvest target of 62,864 fish. Based on catch rates observed in past years with similar abundance levels, the department estimates the harvest target will be taken in six days. However, actual harvest and catch rates can be affected significantly by the level of effort directed at chum salmon rather than Chinook salmon, as well as weather conditions. The remaining treaty Chinook salmon quota will be available for harvest in a second opening following any closure of the coho salmon troll fishery, or no later than August 20 if a coho closure is not necessary.

Trollers are strongly encouraged to contact the troll fishery managers during the opening to report catch and effort information. Fishermen are reminded to listen to the daily U.S. Coast Guard marine information broadcasts and NOAA/National Weather Service weather broadcasts or stay in close contact with the department or processors for fishery updates or closure announcements.

2013 ALLOCATIONS AND PROJECTED TREATY CHINOOK SALMON HARVESTS

Allocations of the all-gear harvest quota for 2013 under Board of Fisheries regulations are as follows:

All-gear Treaty Quota	Purse Seine	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Total Net	Sport	Troll
176,000	7,568	5,104	1,000	13,672	32,466	129,862

Estimated troll fishery harvests of treaty Chinook from the winter and spring troll fisheries are:

Fishery	Total	Alaska Hatchery	Treaty Fish
Winter Fishery	26,612	4,015	22,597
Spring Fishery	29,922	14,467	15,455
Pre-summer Totals	56,534	18,482	38,052

Projected Summer troll fishery target harvest- 1st Chinook retention period:

Treaty Fish	Alaska Hatchery	Total
60,978	1,886	62,864

FAS VESSELS

Catcher-processors intending to freeze their catch onboard during the summer troll fishery must obtain an **Exemption Permit** from the Department in order to legally remove the heads from adipose fin-clipped salmon [5AAC 29.145(c)]. The permit is available at area offices and on the troll fishery website.

Catcher-processor vessel owners (FAS) are reminded to complete and submit a **separate fish ticket for each week** (Sunday through Saturday) and are encouraged to contact the troll managers periodically with catch information. Fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel. Permits for exemption from 5 AAC 29.140(b) are available at all Southeast Area Offices as well as on the troll fishery website.

LANDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All spring troll fisheries will be closed by 11:59 p.m., June 30. **All salmon harvested during the spring troll fishery must be offloaded prior to fishing during the summer troll fishery.** In addition to the reporting requirements specified in 5 AAC 39.130, trollers and processors are requested to record a 5-digit statistical area on fish tickets, whenever possible, rather than simply the district where the majority of the fish were caught. **Processors should continue to submit spring troll tickets to the nearest ADF&G office, while summer troll tickets should be submitted to the Sitka ADF&G office within seven days after the fish are offloaded from the vessel.**

TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

As of July 1, only Chinook which are 28 inches or greater may be retained in the commercial troll fishery, with the exception of the Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area and the Silver Bay Special Harvest Area, where Chinook salmon 26 inches and greater may be retained beginning July 1. The **Herring Bay Terminal Harvest Area** will open to troll gear from July 1 through August 30 (5 AAC 33.369). The **Silver Bay Special Harvest Area** will open to troll gear from July 1–30 (5 AAC 33.375). Please refer to news releases issued on June 21 for more detailed information.

The **Neets Bay THA** will close to trolling at 12:00 noon, July 2 until further notice. Trollers may target Neets Bay chum salmon outside the THA in West Behm Canal when those waters are open to trolling. The **Port Armstrong THA** will close to trolling at 11:59 p.m., June 30.

SITUK RIVER CHINOOK SALMON RETENTION CLOSURE

In the **Yakutat area**, waters near the mouth of the **Situk River will be closed to the harvest of Chinook salmon by troll gear effective July 1.** The projected Chinook salmon escapement to the Situk River, at 475 large Chinook, is slightly below the 2013 preseason projection and within the range of 451–730 large fish. This projection calls a closure to ensure escapement goals are met, as described in the Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet and Lost River King Salmon Fisheries Management Plan. A portion of District 181 south

of Yakutat Bay, in State waters, will close to Chinook salmon retention by troll gear beginning at 12:01 a.m., July 1 in the following area:

“...in the waters of Alaska bounded on the west by the seaward limit of the three-nautical-mile territorial sea and on the north by a line extending seaward from 59°32.49' N. lat., 139°51.79' W. long. (Ocean Cape) and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°39.69' N. lat., 139°55.49' W. long. and on the south by a line extending seaward from 59°21.92' N. lat., 139°23.15' W. long., and intersecting the three-nautical-mile limit at 59°19.90' N. lat., 139°26.39' W. long.”

As a clarification, trolling will be allowed within this area but retention of Chinook salmon will be prohibited until further notice. If Chinook salmon escapements to the Situk River improve significantly, the need for this closure will be re-evaluated.

CLOSED WATERS (in addition to those listed in 5 AAC 29.150)

The commercial troll fishery in Chilkat Inlet north of an ADF&G regulatory marker immediately north of Seduction Point is closed July 1 through July 14. This closure is needed to protect mature Chinook salmon returning to the Chilkat River [5 AAC 33.384(e)(1)].

FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Vessels trolling for salmon in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Alaska that retain groundfish bycatch must have a Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP) endorsed for troll gear. Contact NMFS at 907-586-7202 or 800-304-4846 for more information. **Any troll vessels that do not have an FFP, who do fish in the EEZ and do catch groundfish may not retain those fish and they must be released before being brought onboard the vessel.**

The 2013 Summer Troll Fishery Management Plan is available at all regional ADF&G offices and on the troll website at:

The summer troll fishery webpage can be found at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareasoutheast.salmon_managementplans.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Hoonah</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983		747-3254	465-4000		945-3620	
<i>Troll Hotline</i>	225-6870	772-3700		747-8765	465-8765			